



SARO-WIWA WRITERS' RESIDENCY OPENS IN ABUJA

Edozie Udeze

The Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) has finally decided to open the much awaited Ken Saro-Wiwa writers' residency in Abuja. Come August, the first

(ANA) led by its president, Dr Dipo Usman Akanbi has so far proved that an institution can work well if the leadership is sincere and passionate. Thus comes the opening of the first

federation on rotatory basis. But now, in addition to the enviable headquarters of ANA in Abuja, the leadership has also deemed it necessary to have a writers' residency where authors and

writers are encouraged to go to for a certain period of time to hibernate and produce some creative works. Now, it is time to commence action and activities in the place. And that is why the leadership of ANA is advertising for interested writers to apply starting from this July.

The application is open to both local and international writers. It is already clear based on the ideas

behind the establishment of the centre that it is meant to cater for the interest of writers across the globe. In a statement released by Dr Akanbi, ANA president, it is stated that the project is in honour of one of Nigeria's most celebrated authors, playwright, dramatist, human rights activist and a former president of the association in the person of the late Ken Saro-Wiwa. Akanbi said, "come August the activities will commence. We

set of writers will be admitted into the centre. In the meantime, advertisements have been made for interested writers to apply. EDOZIE UDEZE in an encounter with Dr Dipo Usman Akanbi, president of ANA, makes the situation clearer in this report.

It is a sound leadership drive that makes an institution function well for the benefit of the larger society. The leadership of the Association of Nigerian Authors

ever writers' residency programme organised by the writers' body in Nigeria. It is the Ken Saro-Wiwa writers' residency situated within the confines of Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village, Mpape, Abuja.

The writers' village was established by Nigerian authors to help writers have a place of their own. Before now, all their conferences, local and international, were usually held in different states of the



therefore welcome interested writers to apply for the unique opportunity to focus on their craft and connect with fellow writers”.

He said further, “it is established to bring together both established and emerging writers from diverse backgrounds, from across Africa to share experience, develop their craft and contribute to the development of the continent's literary landscape. Therefore the guideline for the application includes practising creative writers based in the African continent. The works have to be within the realm of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and the literary criticism”. In addition, an applicant must have written and published at least one work, a book or excerpts in a reputable literary platform either in print or digital form. The sample of the work an applicant intends to concentrate on or complete in the process of the residency must be clearly indicated in the application.

This is to clearly show that each applicant is genuinely committed to writing and that he or she will surely utilise the opportunity for the benefit of the creative ideal for which the Ken Saro-Wiwa centre is established. Poets have to submit five poems from their previous or on-going works. This has to be authenticated via the application. In addition, proof of each persons nationality to show he or she is an African has to be clearly stated and proved. Based on the quality of application submitted, the best qualified writers will then be selected. The application has to show deep seriousness. Once the programme commences applicants must commit enough of their time to the

residency, working and completing their project.

Those selected will have to create time to interact and mentor students within the area. The programme is detailed to last for four weeks. There could also be an additional two weeks of grace for those who still want to tighten up some loose ends. However, the sum of one hundred thousand naira will be provided for local writers while the foreign ones will be given two hundred thousand for the period of the programme. This is to augment their internal movement in and around Abuja. The programme commences from August 30th and ends on October 11th 2025.



Meanwhile a visit to the imposing structures that constitute the residency showed that it is deliberately established to meet modern needs of users. The rooms are not just big and comfortable, the kitchen cabinets are fitted with the best in the world. The sitting rooms are large with the necessary writing materials in form of chairs, tables and cabinets. The television sets are properly fitted to serve their purposes. The outside of the buildings located within the foyers of Mpape valleys and hills provide natural security and comforts all year round. The premises is well fenced with adequate security. There are decent

eatries and joints here and there. The nearby Mpape location is also alluring enough for evening stroll or walkout.

Away from the beauty of the Mamman Vasta Writers' Village, writers can easily take a ride to the nearby Maitama extension and indeed other parts of Abuja. The hilly encampment always gives Mpape an enviable appearance. Indeed the ANA hostels within the premises equally provides some endearing succour to the whole arrangement and setting. Real reasons.

“The Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) is a non-profit organisation that aims to promote and develop literature in Nigeria, with a particular focus on Nigerian authors. Over the years, ANA has been instrumental in providing various programmes and initiatives to support Nigerian authors, including workshops, literary events and awards, etc. In line with our commitment to supporting Nigerian authors, we propose the establishment of the Ken Saro-Wiwa International Writers' Residence (KSWIWR).

As the leading literary organisation in Nigeria, ANA recognises the need to provide an environment conducive for Nigerian authors to hone their craft and excel in their literary pursuits. A writer residency programme is an excellent opportunity for authors to focus on their writing, research, and networking with other writers, thus enhancing their creativity and productivity. Additionally, this residency programme can also attract international writers to Nigeria, promoting cultural exchange and showcasing the diversity

and richness of Nigerian literature.

Ken Saro-Wiwa was a renowned Nigerian writer, activist, and environmentalist who fought against the exploitation of the Niger Delta by oil companies. He also played a significant role in promoting African literature. He was a former president of the Association (1990 – 1993). In honour of his legacy and contributions to the literary world, we propose that the residency be named after him – Ken Saro-Wiwa International Writers' Residence. The objectives include to provide an inspiring and nurturing environment

for Nigerian and international writers to work on their literary projects. To promote cultural exchange and mutual understanding among writers from different cultural backgrounds. To honour the legacy of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his contributions to Nigerian literature. To showcase the diversity and richness of Nigerian literature to the international community. The residence will be located within the premises of ANA Hotel and Apartments, Mamman Vatsa

Writers' Village, Maitama Extension, Km. 2, Mpape Rd.,

Abuja. Besides the Village belonging to ANA and housing its National Secretariat, it is also in cognizance of its serenity which offers an environment conducive for any writer seeking quietude and inspiration to embark on their literary projects. This location also makes the ANA Library and Resource Centre, and the local community of Mpape easily accessible for the writers to carry out their research and, at the same time, offer community services to the people.

There will be two different residency programmes in a year – one for internationally-



based Nigerian writers, and the other for Nigerian-based writers. The internationally-based residency will run for a period of two months, with a total of six writers (two from Nigeria and four from other Countries), while that of Nigerian-based writers will be for a month duration. The Nigerianbased writers' residency programme is expected to start in the second week of November 2025 (a week after the ANA international convention) till the first week of December 2025. The internationally-based writers' programme comes in July to September, which is usually the period of summer vacations.

There will be various activities during the four-week residency programme. These activities will not only make the writers' stay eventful and memorable, it will also afford them the opportunity to interact with their new environment, learn their cultural differences, while also making meaningful contributions to the growth and development of literary arts in the community. Week 1: Activities for the first week will include courtesy visits to prominent individuals within and around the community, and excursions to interesting places like the National Park and Zoo, the National Library, Cyprian Ekwensi Arts and Culture Centre, amongst others.

Week 2: During the second week of the residency programme, the resident writers will embark on community services which will include interactions with schools and literary clubs (if any) within and around the community. This will serve as their contributions in fostering literary activities in the community as well as ANA's corporate social services to society. Weeks 3&4: The writers will use the remaining two weeks to focus on their personal writings and research. Each resident writer is expected to achieve a significant result in their writing project within their one month stay in the residence.

The programme is open to both emerging and established writers from and outside Nigeria. To be eligible, writers must have at least one published work and a project they intend to work on during the residency. Writers will be selected through a rigorous and transparent process based on the strength of their application and literary portfolio. The geopolitical zone of the intending residents will also be put into consideration as

there is a need for cultural diversity during the residency programme. A committee consisting of ANA members and literary experts will oversee the selection process.

ANA will be responsible for securing funding for the residency programme through partnerships and sponsorships from corporate bodies and individuals. By diversifying the funding sources, a stable financial foundation will be created.

The residency will provide a comfortable and fully furnished living space for the writers, including a bedroom, writing space, and a communal kitchen. ANA Library and Resource Centre will be available for the writers to access various literary works for research and inspiration. There will be outdoor spaces for recreational activities, relaxation, rejuvenation, and drawing inspiration from nature. There will also be administrative support from staff members who will manage the day-to-day operations, provide assistance to residents, and ensure they enjoy a seamless experience.

The Ken Saro-Wiwa International Writers' Residence will be a valuable addition to ANA's programmes, furthering our mission to support and promote Nigerian literature, while also providing a nurturing space for Nigerian and international writers to thrive. We believe that the residency will contribute significantly to the growth and development of the literary community in Nigeria and beyond. We, therefore, request your support and endorsement for the implementation of this proposal”.

NIGERIAN AUTHORS RE-ELECT EZE AS ABUJA ANA CHAIRMAN

Vincent Ikuomola

The Abuja Chapter of the Association of Nigerian Authors has re-elected Architect Chukwudi Eze as chairman of ANA for a second term.

Eze, who first assumed leadership of the chapter in May 2023 re-elected unopposed for another two years in office at the association's general congress held on Saturday at the Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village, Abuja.

In his acceptance speech, Eze pledged to build on the chapter's recent successes and usher in a new era of excellence, partnerships and growth.

He also commended members of the ANA, Abuja Chapter, for their support and overwhelming confidence in his team, calling for unity and cooperation among members to reposition the chapter and further contribute to the growth and development of the association.

“Your vote of confidence is a stamp not only to the work we have done over the past two

years, but also to your belief in the future we shall build together”.

Eze listed as part of his achievements during his first term to include growing membership of the association, citing increased outreach to universities and the creation of student, associate, and honorary membership categories as key drivers of this expansion.

launched two major publishing platforms: the Flights of Imagination Anthology and the Young Authors Publishing Initiative, aimed at grooming and publishing emerging voices in Nigerian literature.

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Dr. Usman Akanbi, National President of ANA, in his remarks urged the chapter chairman to expand on the good

work that he started and to “build more literary bridges”, suggesting sustainability of ongoing programmes and the introduction of new ones.

Akanbi assured that the national body will continue to support the

chapter in all of its initiatives.

Mallam Denja Abdullahi, veteran art director and ANA's former national president, commended the chapter's revitalisation through hard work and bold leadership initiatives, while suggesting “leveraging technology to help in creating a vibrant community of written and spoken word craftsmen.”

Notable initiatives during his tenure included the monthly Reading and Writers' Dialogue, which featured high-profile guests such as former President Olusegun Obasanjo, prominent writers, academics, and individuals who have made impacts in leadership and literary development.

ANA Abuja under Eze also



In their separate remarks, Prof. Tunde Olusunle, seasoned media practitioner and member of the chapter, and Dr Joan Oji, National Secretary of the Association, congratulated the new EXCO, describing their victory as a testimony to their commitment to literary excellence.

They urged the leadership of ANA Abuja to keep prioritising programmes that mentor and publish more young writers, especially women, as they pledged their continued support for the chapter.

Others that were re-elected at the congress include Rukayyat Bayero – Vice Chairperson; Uthman Qasim – Secretary; Adelaja Olufunke – Assistant Secretary; Obinna

Okereke – Auditor; Olaitan Abiodun – Treasurer; and Adelana Esther as PRO.

Others include Yemi Mercy-Assistant PRO; Stephanie Abughdyer, Financial Secretary; Barrister Charles Iwuchukwu, Legal Adviser; and Abdulmalik Yahya was inaugurated as Exchange and Special Task Coordinator.

The new council took oath of office administered by Barrister Eric Ibe as witnessed by prominent members of

the chapter, including Rtd. CP Emmanuel Ojukwu, Salamatu Sule, Dr Nyaknno Osso, among others.



ANA COMMENDS MEMBERS CONFERRED FELLOWS OF ICPAN Leadership Newspaper

Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) has celebrated its members Mallam Denja Abdullahi and Esther Adelana, who were conferred with fellows of the Institute of Corporate and Public Administrators of Nigeria (ICPAN) in Abuja.

Abdullahi, a retired director at National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC), ex-ANA National President and authors of several poetry and dramatic works, was honoured for his exceptional leadership skills and commitment to the promotion of literature and public administration in Nigeria. His tenure as ANA President, left an indelible mark on the association, inspiring countless writers and advocates within the literary space.

Adelana, a young and promising writer, author of

'Ibálé: The Broken Pot' (2024) and the Public Relations Officer, ANA Abuja Chapter, was recognized for her exemplary dedication and diligence in promoting literature, and her efforts in fostering a dynamic literary community.

“The ANA National Executive Council and its entire membership take immense pride in the accomplishments of these distinguished individuals whose contributions have significantly enriched the literary landscape and fostered a vibrant literary community in Nigeria,” said ANA National President, Dr Usman Akanbi.

Further describing the conferment, a testament to the transformative power of dedication and service in both literature and public administration, Akanbi expressed hopes of the latest fellows continued contributions in the future.



ANA MOURNS THE PASSING OF FORMER PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI

The Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of former President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, whose death was officially announced on Sunday. In a statement jointly signed by its President, Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi, and General Secretary, Dame Joan Oji, PhD, the association



evident throughout his tenure.

The statement further emphasized the need for Nigerian leaders to draw lessons from Buhari's years of service, urging them to embrace firm, proactive, and people-centered governance in their leadership approaches.

"As writers and custodians of national memory, we at ANA recognize the indelible impact of former President Buhari's leadership, both in his

conveyed heartfelt condolences to the immediate and extended families of the late President, as well as to the entire citizenry of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

ANA described the late Buhari as an "incorruptible statesman" whose legacy should serve as a moral compass for both current and future leaders in Nigeria. The literary body noted that while his administration faced significant governance and economic challenges, his dedication to public service remained

strengths and shortcomings," the statement read.

ANA also extended prayers for strength and comfort to the bereaved family and friends of the late President. The association prayed that Almighty Allah grant Muhammadu Buhari eternal rest in Aljanat Firdaus.

The statement concluded with a final tribute: "Adieu, Baba PMB."

**"Proverbs are the palm oil with which words are eaten."
– Chinua Achebe - From "Things Fall Apart"**

ANA CELEBRATES CAMILLUS UKAH ON HIS BIRTHDAY, HAILS HIS LEGACY AND LEADERSHIP

The Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) has extended warm birthday wishes to its Immediate Past President, Mr. Camillus Ukah, fondly referred to as the "Kinetic President," in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the

instrumental role in the completion and commissioning of the Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village in 2021. The association also commended him for successfully hosting the historic 40th anniversary convention of ANA, which remains a landmark event in the organization's history.



Dr. Akanbi noted that Mr. Ukah's dynamic and purposeful leadership continues to inspire members of the association and the wider literary community. "Your life and legacy are worth celebrating. You remain a source of motivation for the present and coming generations of writers and literary administrators in Nigeria," he said.

association and Nigerian literature.

In a congratulatory message signed by the current President, Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi, ANA praised Mr. Ukah's visionary leadership, particularly highlighting his

The association wished Mr. Ukah a joyous birthday celebration and many more years of meaningful impact and dedicated service to the literary world.

"Until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter."

– Chinua Achebe - From "Home and Exile"

PAWA'S NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PRIORITISES MARGINALISED LITERATURE, INTERCONTINENTAL LITERACY, DIALOGUE

Chinelo Chikelu

Pan-African Writers Association (PAWA) newly inaugurated regional executive council said it will prioritise Africa's heretofore marginalised literatures, intercontinental dialogue and the champion Africans reading works by African authors across the continent.

The association disclosed this at the inauguration of the newly elected Executive Council, comprising the President, Cameroonian, Professor

fragmentalised by language, literature becomes even more relevant than before – not solely as a means for cultural healing and ethical reflection but is 'the memory, the Republican of the conscience'. Hence, the need for PAWA to be the custodian of African voices, many of which history has marginalized, distorted and even silenced", and serve as bridges to one another, as well as barricades to nuisance/interference."

To achieve its aim in line with PAWA's vision, he

espoused the council's five pillars of operation – including the recentering of marginalized, promotion of translation as a pedagogy, promotion of intercontinental dialogue, and the cultivation of emerging voices and future leaders.

"We are cognizant of the weight of this office and what is expected of us. Thank you all for your confidence, solidarity and shared vision," concluded Ndi.

Earlier in their inauguration address, VPs East Africa, Egara, and West Africa,

Cherno, had highlighted the need to enhance Africans reading of works by African authors across the continent, as well as the preservation of regional languages.

"We in East Africa are willing to work with the rest of the continent in the next three weeks. One of such work is to have works from East Africa and from other African countries circulate the region," said Egara who delivered his speech in English and Kiswahili. More often than not, Egara said African readers have access and consume more of European literature than works of African authors (outside of their country or region).

"I think it's time PAWA repositioned itself to ensure that Africans read other Africans works."



Bill Ndi, and his six Vice Presidents – Reignall Jones (African Diaspora), Egyptian, Ashraf Yazir Dali (North Africa), Gabonese, Eric Bekale (Central Africa), Kenyan, Professor Egara Kabaji (East Africa), Gambian, Professor Cherno Omar Barry (West Africa), and Mozambiquan, Carlos Paradona (Southern Africa), whose administration spans the next three years (2025 – 2028).

Emphasizing the role of PAWA as the custodian of African voices and narratives, and a bridge to and across the continent, Ndi said his administration believes in the emancipation and support of African narratives.

He noted that as the world is increasingly

Cherno on the other hand said his service will be geared towards the promotion of African literature via working with member states to support upcoming writers, and preserving the languages of African regions.

Coincidentally, Ndi's impassioned speech and five pillar- objectives encompassed the various challenges to Africa literature raised by his council members.

“The council has much work to do,” said internationally acclaimed poet and literary educator, Professor Niyi Osundare. “I agree with my Kenyan colleague before we can ask the world to appreciate our literature, we must do so, and also address our own literacy. Many of our people are illiterate. Much work needs to be done in the area of translation literature. I have not seen enough translation happening.”

Meantime, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and

the Creative Sector, Ghana, Abla Dzifa Gomashie, urged that in addition to telling African stories and uniting the continent via stories, PAWA should explore innovative approaches to tourism, cultural and literary festivals that are enriching.

“PAWA continues to be a vital institution in the promotion of African culture. I assure you of our continued support and collaboration.

Established in 1989 by the African Union (AU), PAWA is comprised of member states of the union, who pay annual subventions for fund the day-to-day operations and projects of the association.

It is administered by a Secretary General, Dr Wale Okediran (currently on his second tenure), and an executive council comprising the President and six regional Vice Presidents

ANA DISOWNS PLANNED CONVENTION IN BAYELSA

Adeola Ogunrinde –

The National Office of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) has disassociated itself from a convention reportedly scheduled for July 20, 2025, in Bayelsa State to elect a new state executive committee.

In a statement signed by the National President of ANA, Usman Oladipo Akanbi, the association said the National Executive Council (NEC) is not aware of or associated with any such convention or election, except the one already held that produced the recognised executive led by Barr. Ebi Robert.

“For the avoidance of doubt, there is only one recognised State Executive Committee, and that is the one led by Barr. Ebi Robert,” Akanbi said.

He recalled that the association had experienced internal crises following the botched 2019 Enugu Convention, but since his emergence as president in 2023, efforts had been made to reconcile affected state chapters. According to him, many members have now aligned with the NEC-recognised state leadership.

Akanbi expressed disappointment that despite peace efforts, some members in Bayelsa failed to comply with directives to re-register under the leadership of Ebi Robert. He said registration forms had been made available, and some affected members filled them out in good faith.

“Apparently, when we thought the issues had been resolved, we received reports that some members plan to hold another state election. This attempt to sabotage earlier mediation has failed woefully,” he stated.

The ANA President urged the public to disregard any convention or election being held in Bayelsa, stressing that such actions are null, void, and of no legal effect.

He added that associations globally operate within the framework of their national leadership, and no branch exists in isolation of its duly elected national body.

OKEDIRAN RE-ELECTED SEC-GEN OF PAN AFRICAN WRITERS' ASSOCIATION, PAWA

Wole Adedoyin

DR. Wale Okediran has been re-elected for another three-year term as Secretary General of the Pan African Writers Association (PAWA). His re-election was confirmed at the recently concluded PAWA General Assembly, which brought together prominent literary stakeholders from across the continent.

Okediran's re-election comes as no surprise to many who have followed his impactful leadership in steering PAWA through a transformative phase. Since his initial appointment as Acting Secretary General in 2020, following the passing of PAWA's founding Secretary General, Prof. Atukwei Okai, Dr. Okediran has been instrumental in repositioning the organisation as a central voice for African writers and literary practitioners. His first official election in 2022 further solidified his leadership, which has now been renewed through unanimous endorsement.

The election, chaired by Professor Cherno Omar Barry of The Gambia, was lauded for its transparency and inclusiveness.

It also saw the emergence of other key figures into PAWA's leadership structure, including Mr. Ashraf Aboul Yazid (Egypt) for Northern Africa, Prof. Egara Kabaji (Kenya) for Eastern Africa, Prof. Cherno Omar Barry (The Gambia) for Western Africa, Mr. Carlos Paradona (Mozambique) for Southern Africa, Mr. Eric Joel Bekale (Gabon) for Central Africa, and Ms. Reyna Lineres Jones representing the Diaspora.

Reacting to the news of Dr. Okediran's re-election, the President of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi, described the feat as a well-deserved recognition of Okediran's tireless commitment to the advancement of African literature. Dr. Akanbi noted that Okediran's visionary leadership has not only strengthened PAWA but also contributed

immensely to the broader conversation on African literature and cultural diplomacy.

Dr. Okediran's tenure at PAWA has been marked by significant achievements, from fostering stronger ties between writers' organisations across the continent to expanding PAWA's programs aimed at promoting African literature globally. His administrative acumen, drawn from years of experience in public service, literature, and cultural advocacy, has been pivotal in revitalising the organisation's operations.

Beyond his administrative roles, Dr. Okediran boasts an impressive literary career. He is the

author of fourteen novels, with his most acclaimed work, *Tenants of the House*, earning the prestigious Wole Soyinka Prize for African Literature in 2011. He is also the founder of the Ebedi International Writers Residency in Iseyin, Oyo State, a platform that continues to nurture emerging literary talents from Africa and beyond.

Dr. Okediran's professional life extends beyond literature; he is a Fellow of the General Medical Practitioners of Nigeria and Public Health Physicians of

Nigeria and has served as a Member of the Federal House of Representatives from 2003 to 2007. His diverse background uniquely positions him to bridge the gap between policy, culture, and literature.

Literary communities across Africa have hailed his re-election as a positive development for the continent's literary future. Writers, publishers, and cultural advocates see in him a leader capable of uniting Africa's diverse literary voices under a common agenda of progress, creativity, and cultural pride.

As Dr. Wale Okediran embarks on this renewed mandate, expectations remain high that PAWA, under his stewardship will continue to thrive, inspiring new generations of African writers and fortifying the continent's literary heritage.



ANA PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES NEWLY ELECTED PAWA PRESIDENT, PROF. BILL F. NDI, OTHER EXECUTIVES

The President of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi, has congratulated the newly elected President of the Pan African Writers Association (PAWA), Prof. Bill F. Ndi, and the other members of the newly constituted Executive Council.

This congratulatory message was conveyed in a press statement issued and signed by ANA's General Secretary, Dr. Joan Oji, on behalf of the Association's leadership and its nationwide membership.

Prof. Bill F. Ndi, representing Cameroon and the Diaspora, and Madam Imela Oyono Ayingono from Equatorial Guinea. At the close of voting on July 18 at 4 PM GMT, a total of 42 votes were cast by accredited PAWA delegates.

Of the total votes, 5 were disqualified due to irregularities, leaving 37 valid votes to determine the outcome. Prof. Bill F. Ndi emerged victorious with 23 votes, representing 62.16% of the valid ballots cast. This result surpassed the constitutional threshold of 50% plus one, thus confirming his rightful position as President of

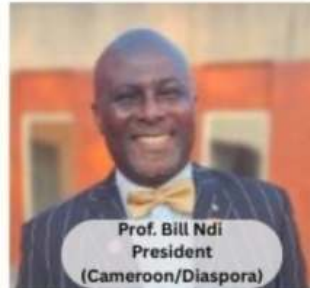
PAWA New Leadership



Ms Reyna Lineres Jones
Vice President for the Diaspora
(Diaspora)



Mr. Ashraf Aboul Yazid
Vice President for North Africa
(Egypt)



Prof. Bill Ndi
President
(Cameroon/Diaspora)



Dr. Wale Okediran
Secretary General
(Nigeria)

PAWA| Pan African Writers Association



Mr. Carlos Paradona
Vice President for Southern Africa
(Mozambique)



Prof. Egara Kabaji
Vice President for East Africa
(Kenya)



Prof. Cherno Omar Barry
Vice President for West Africa
(The Gambia)



Mr. Eric Joel Bekale
Vice President for Central Africa
(Gabon)

According to the statement, the emergence of Prof. Bill F. Ndi as President of PAWA reflects his longstanding commitment to African literature, his literary excellence, and his enduring passion for fostering cross-cultural collaborations across the continent. ANA, under the leadership of Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi, applauded the transparency and fairness of the election process which, despite being keenly contested, reflected the democratic ideals that PAWA upholds in its mission to advance African literature.

The election, which was conducted virtually, drew considerable interest from stakeholders across Africa. It was contested mainly between

PAWA for the next three-year term.

Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi commended not only Prof. Ndi but also other elected officers who will be joining him in steering the affairs of PAWA. They include Mr. Ashraf Aboul Yazid (Egypt) as Vice President for Northern Africa, Prof. Egara Kabaji (Kenya) for Eastern Africa, Prof. Cherno Omar Barry (The Gambia) for Western Africa, Mr. Carlos Paradona (Mozambique) for Southern Africa, Mr. Eric Joel Bekale (Gabon) for Central Africa, Ms. Reyna Lineres Jones (Diaspora), and Dr. Wale Okediran who retained his position as Secretary General.

The ANA President noted that this new

leadership configuration represents a healthy blend of literary giants and cultural advocates drawn from the diverse linguistic and cultural zones of the African continent and its Diaspora. He expressed optimism that their collective expertise and vision will help PAWA chart a renewed course for the growth and global recognition of African literature.

Furthermore, Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi reaffirmed ANA's unwavering support for PAWA's vision and assured the

new executives of the Association's readiness to collaborate on future literary initiatives aimed at promoting African voices on the global stage. ANA stressed the importance of solidarity among African writers' organizations in confronting the challenges facing literature on the continent.

The ANA President also acknowledged the significant role PAWA continues to play in uniting African writers and fostering a pan-African literary identity. He noted that ANA

remains committed to promoting literary excellence and supporting PAWA's mission to empower writers and preserve Africa's literary heritage.

In closing, Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi wished Prof. Bill F. Ndi and his team a successful tenure filled with impactful projects, creative innovations, and strengthened partnerships that will continue to elevate African literature and uphold the legacies of its pioneering literary figures.

ANA PRESIDENT HAILS DR. WALE OKEDIRAN'S RE-ELECTION AS PAWA SECRETARY GENERAL

The President of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi, has felicitated with Dr. Wale Okediran on his recent re-election as the Secretary General of the Pan African Writers Association (PAWA), describing the feat as a well-deserved recognition of his exceptional contributions to the African literary community.

In a press statement signed by ANA's General Secretary, Joan Oji, the association noted that Dr. Wale Okediran's unanimous confirmation by the PAWA General Assembly for a second term reflects his dedication, wealth of experience, and remarkable achievements during his first tenure. ANA commended his visionary leadership, which has positioned PAWA as a more formidable voice in African literature and cultural diplomacy.

The statement recalled that Dr. Okediran's journey with PAWA began in 2020 when he was appointed Acting Secretary General, following the passing of Prof. Atukwei Okai, PAWA's founding Secretary General. His first official election came in 2022 during the PAWA Conference and General Assembly held at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. His reelection at the recently concluded General Assembly reaffirms the confidence African writers repose in his capacity to continue advancing the continent's literary agenda.

According to ANA, the election chaired by Professor Cherno Omar Barry of The Gambia was marked by transparency and fairness, resulting in the emergence of a new leadership team alongside Dr. Okediran. These include Mr. Ashraf Aboul Yazid (Egypt) for Northern Africa, Prof. Egara Kabaji (Kenya) for Eastern Africa, Prof. Cherno Omar Barry (The Gambia) for Western Africa, Mr. Carlos Paradona (Mozambique) for Southern Africa, Mr. Eric Joel Bekale (Gabon) for Central Africa, and Ms. Reyna Lineres Jones representing the Diaspora.

While congratulating Dr. Okediran, Dr. Akanbi expressed optimism that his renewed leadership at PAWA would usher in greater accomplishments not only for African literature but also for the Association of Nigerian Authors and Nigeria's literary reputation on the global stage. He urged Dr. Okediran to continue to serve as a beacon of inspiration for emerging writers across the continent.

ANA further praised Dr. Okediran's tireless efforts in revitalizing PAWA, noting his extensive experience in public service, literature, and cultural advocacy. His background, which includes serving as a Member of the Federal House of Representatives (2003-2007) and consulting for international development organizations, brings a unique blend of administrative and creative expertise to the position.

The association highlighted Dr. Okediran's impressive literary credentials, including the authorship of fourteen novels, with *Tenants of the House* earning the Wole Soyinka Prize for African Literature in 2011. His commitment to nurturing literary talents through the Ebedi International Writers Residency in Iseyin, Oyo State, remains a landmark contribution to African literature.

Dr. Akanbi also acknowledged Dr. Okediran's professional accomplishments beyond literature, as a Fellow of both the General Medical Practitioners of Nigeria and Public Health Physicians of Nigeria. His tenure as ANA President from 2006 to 2009.

ANA concluded the statement by joining family, friends, and the global literary community in wishing Dr. Okediran continued success. The association also prayed for divine wisdom and good health for him as he embarks on another tenure of steering the affairs of PAWA towards greater achievements.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANA NASARAWA STATE CHAPTER

The Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) was founded over four decades ago by a group of African literary creatives led by the late Prof. Chinua Achebe, who served as its first President. The vision was to create a platform for promoting Nigerian literature and supporting writers across the country.

In Nasarawa State, the Chapter began as a gathering of literary and creative minds under the leadership of Malam Habu Suleiman, then Director of News and Current Affairs at the Nasarawa State Broadcasting Service (NBS). Prominent pioneers of the Chapter include Prince Mohammed Ohitoto, Dr. Thomas Affi, Alhaji Mukhtar S. Wakeel (Makaman Wamba), the late Pharm. Barau, among others.

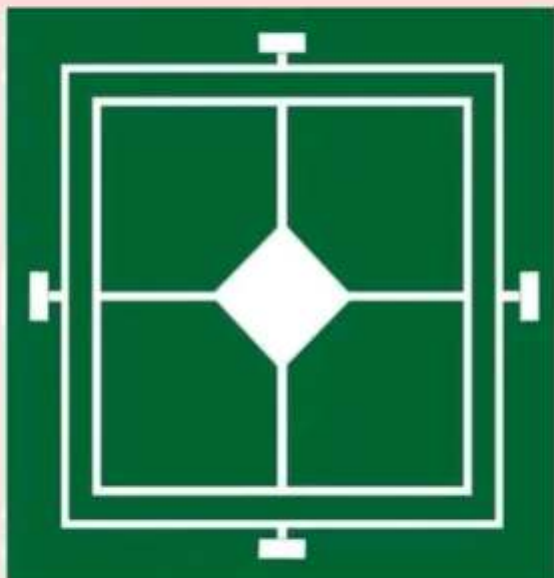
The Chapter was formally inaugurated in June 2011 with Prof. Malam Al-Bishak as the pioneer Chairman. Over the past decade, ANA Nasarawa has lived up to expectations, consistently organizing monthly readings, creative writing workshops, poetry and essay competitions, and the Annual ANA/Yusuf Ali Literary Workshop. The Chapter has been recognized as the Best Performing State Chapter on four occasions: 2012, 2013, 2022, and 2023.

In 2022, the Chapter launched its “One Child, One Book per Week” Project, starting with the donation of 1,000 books to public and private schools across the state. This initiative continues as part of the Chapter's commitment to promoting a reading culture. Currently, ANA Nasarawa has over 10 active Reading Clubs and 2 Creative Forums.

The Chapter proudly counts among its members three ANA Fellows: Emeritus Prof. Idris O.O. Amali (former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Lafia), Prof. Al-Bishak, and Dr. Zainab T. Ahmed (former Secretary to the

Nasarawa State Government). It is also home to five Professors, including Prof. Victor S. Dugga (Provost, College of Postgraduate Studies, Federal University of Lafia), Prof. Halima Idris Amali (Department of English & Literary Studies, Federal University of Lafia), and Prof. Adam A. Sirajudeen (Department of Arabic Studies).

The current administration, led by Dr. Chika Onyashiyiwa Ose-Agbo, the first female Chairman of the Chapter, was elected on June 21, 2021, and re-elected on August 3, 2023. She is the first Chairman to serve two consecutive terms. ANA Nasarawa appreciates and honors the support and commitment of its Patrons, past leaders, national and state executives, members, partners, and collaborators who have contributed to the Chapter's continued growth and success.



PAST CHAIRMEN OF ANA NASARAWA STATE CHAPTER

- Mal. Habu Suleiman – Pre-inauguration Chairman
- Prof. Mal. Al-Bishak – 2011–2013
- Mal. Sumaila Umaisha – 2013–2015
- Alh. Mukhtar S. Wakeel (Makaman Wamba) – 2015–2017
- Prof. Idris O.O. Amali – Caretaker Chairman
- Mal. Bala Abubakar Daddere – 2019–2021
- Dr. Chika O. Ose-Agbo – 2021–2023
- Dr. Chika O. Ose-Agbo – 2023–2025

ANA NASARAWA STATE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE (2023–2025)

- **Chairman:** Dr. Chika Onyashiyiwa Ose-Agbo
- **Vice Chairman:** Mr. Osori Ibrahim DanAsabe
- **Secretary:** Miss Gladys Bulus
- **Assistant Secretary:** Mr. Theophilus Ekianza
- **Treasurer:** Miss Adama Dalhatu
- **Financial Secretary:** Mr. Suleiman Abubakar
- **Public Relations Officer (PRO):** Mr. Michael Amedu

IMODOYE WRITERS RESIDENCY INDUCTS SIXTH COHORT OF FELLOWS

On August 2, 2025, at exactly 4:00 PM, the Imodoye Writers Residency held the induction ceremony for the sixth cohort of Imodoye Fellows, marking a memorable milestone in the evolving legacy of the literary residency program. The event was a modest yet

vibrant community of writers.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the Writers' Hangout session. During this interactive and lively segment, fellows and guest writers presented excerpts from their creative works, spanning poetry, short stories, and novel fragments.

1. N m a H a s s a n Muhammad
2. J o h n C h i n a k a Onyeché
3. Kayode Ayobami
4. Olabode Moses Leye

With their induction, the fellows join a distinguished network of literary voices dedicated to advancing the



momentous occasion, graced by esteemed writers, literary enthusiasts, and invited guests.

The ceremony served as a formal welcome into the Imodoye Writers Enclave (IWE) community, with the atmosphere brimming with joy, pride, and creative energy. Each segment of the program underscored the commitment of the Residency to nurturing literary talent and fostering a

These performances showcased the richness of talent within the Imodoye circle and reinforced the power of storytelling as a tool for transformation.

The event culminated in the official presentation of certificates to the newly inducted fellows, symbolizing their formal recognition as members of the Imodoye fellowship. The sixth cohort of fellows comprises:

frontiers of creative writing. Their journey is expected to inspire future generations and contribute meaningfully to the African literary landscape and beyond.

Congratulations to the newly inducted Imodoye Fellows on this outstanding achievement!

IMODOYE WRITERS RESIDENCY INDUCTS SIXTH COHORT OF FELLOWS



THREE FEMALE WRITERS FOR EBEDI INTERNATIONAL WRITERS RESIDENCY

Three female writers all from Nigeria have arrived Iseyin, Nigeria for the July/ August 2025 Edition of the Ebedi International Writers Residency.

The writers are Left to Right in the above picture: Joy Okwori, Nkechinyere Chukwu and Lisa Olakunle.

In addition to their individual Writing Projects, the Writers will also mentor Secondary school students in Iseyin during their 4 week stay.

The Ebedi International Writers Residency is a private initiative for the free use of Writers in need of a conducive environment to complete their ongoing works.

Since its establishment in 2010, the facility has hosted 360 Writers from 12 African Countries.

The current class of female residents were sponsored by the ABOVE WHISPERS FOUNDATION established by the eminent feminist thinker, gender specialist, policy advocate and writer, Erelu Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi.



Erelu Fayemi is a long standing friend of the Ebedi Residency and we are delighted with this collaboration which has facilitated the sponsorship of female

writers in various residences at Ebedi since 2023.

For further enquiries, about the Residency, kindly send a message to derinjuwon@gmail.com

"Books and all forms of writing are terror to those who wish to suppress the truth."

**"The man dies in all who keep silent in the face of tyranny."
– From "The Man Died"**

NIGERIAN AUTHORS HAIL KOGBE FOR WINNING EPIC AWARD

Nigerian authors under the platform of Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) have hailed Dr Oluwabamidele Ibrahim Kogbe for being conferred with the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation EPIC Award.

the Federal Civil Service.

His achievements embody the true spirit of efficiency, productivity, incorruptibility, and citizen-centred service (EPIC), inspiring many across the nation.

As a respected intellectual

resonate deeply with the association's mission to promote excellence, ethical leadership, and national development.

He said that this recognition is a testament to Kogbe's enduring impact in public service.



The award ceremony took place during the recognition and rewards ceremony, marking the end of the 2025 Civil Service Week.

Kogbe's dedication and commitment to service have earned him this prestigious recognition as the outstanding officer in

and public servant, Kogbe's work continues to inspire both within and beyond the civil service.

ANA President, Dr Usman Oladipo Akanbi, commended Kogbe's unwavering pursuit of excellence.

He said that Kogbe's dedication and integrity

Akanbi added that ANA is proud to celebrate his success.

He added that ANA wish him continued success and leadership in serving our country.

CALL FOR NOMINATION OF NEW REGULAR FELLOWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN AUTHORS 2025 CYCLE

The College of Fellows of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), in conjunction with the National Executive Council of the Association, hereby calls for nominations into the Regular Fellowship class of 2025. The Fellowship is the ANA's highest Recognition of Literary Excellence, Creativity, and Meritorious Service rendered to the Nigerian literary community. Eligibility Criteria A Nominee must:

1. Be a financially up-to-date Member of ANA as at 30th June 2025.
2. Be at least 35 years old and have a minimum verifiable engagement in literature, publishing, literary scholarship, or related creative industries, with at least five years of active engagement.
3. Have a consistent record of literary creativity, scholarship or advancement of literature in Nigeria.



4. Have shown sustained commitment and service to ANA at the Chapter or national levels for not less than Five Years.
5. Be nominated and seconded by two ANA Regular Fellows, drawn from two different Chapters, who are financially up-to-date and active.
6. The applicant will need to include in their application pack a letter of endorsement from the chairperson of their chapter

Submission Requirements

All nominations will be done through this link: <https://shorturl.at/e51DF> and must include the following:

A. Nomination Details:

- i. Year of Application for Fellowship;
- ii. Name, Chapter, Membership number, Occupation and the Institutional/Organisational affiliation of the Nominee, with evidence of

- being financially up-to-date in payment of ANA dues;
- iii. Name, Chapter, membership number, occupation and the Institutional/Organisational affiliation of the Sponsor, with evidence of being financially up-to-date in payment of ANA dues;
- iv. Name, Chapter, membership number, occupation and the Institutional/Organisational affiliation of the Secunder, with evidence of being financially up-to-date in payment of ANA dues.

B. Personal Details

- i. Name (surname, other names)
- ii. Contact address
- iii. Date of birth

C. Nominee's ANA Membership Details

- i. Year he or she joined ANA
- ii. Membership Number
- iii. Chapter
- iv. Number of paid-up years
- v. Last ANA Convention attended
- vi. Last ANA dues paid (attach proof)

D. Academic and Professional Background

- i. Academic qualifications (Institutions, dates attended)
- ii. Certificates and other professional qualifications (with dates)

E. Honours and Distinctions

- i. National Honours (if any)
- ii. Other awards (Indicate granting bodies, location and date)

F. Professional and Creative Affiliations

Please list Membership of Other Literary or Creative Writing Bodies (indicate full address of granting body with years and positions, if any)

G. Summary of Contributions to Nigerian Literature

Highlight creative, scholarship, mentoring, advocacy, etc. (max. 1000 words. Please note that a text longer than 1000 words will be penalised by assessors.

H. Creative Writing Record

Please, fill the detailed Bibliographical Citations of Creative Works (begin with the most recent)

I. Service to ANA and the Literary Community

List Contributions to ANA. Include details concerning the nature of the Service, if any (specify role and years). Maximum of 300 words. Please note that any text longer than 300 words will be penalised by assessors.)

J. Community Service

Summary of community service at the local, national or international levels, with year. (Max. 300 words. Please, note that any text longer than 300 words will be penalised by assessors.)

K. Any Other Relevant Information

Please, be brief and concise.

L. Signatures

Signatures: write the following on one piece of paper, scan and upload here:

- i. Name, Signature of the Nominee and Date
- ii. Sponsor's Name, Chapter, ANA Number, Signature and Date
- iii. Seconder's Name, Chapter, ANA Number, Signature and Date
- iv. Please include a signed endorsement by your chapter chairperson

M. Submission Deadline

All completed nominations with evidence of payment must be sent via the following link: <https://shorturl.at/e51DF> on or before Midnight of Friday, 19th September 2025. Late or incomplete entries will not be considered. N. Please Note:

1. Each Regular Fellow may nominate or second Only One Candidate per nomination cycle, please.
2. Self-nominations are not accepted.
3. Writers or creatives in Nigerian indigenous languages are not excluded from this Award process, please.